(b) Their main demands are regularisation of the services of craftsmen and enhancement of their wages.

(c) The matter is sub-judice.

Review of rejected cases of freedom fighters pension

2330. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to review the rejected cases of freedom fighters 'pension;

(b) if so, whether the decision covers those cases in which pension was earlier granted but was discontinued subsequently; and

(c) whether it is a fact that even after recommendations by the State Governments concerned after due verification, cases of freedom fighters' pension are being rejected by the Central Govenrment; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) A special drive was launched in July-August 1986 to dispose of cases of freedom fighters. Barring a few, all the cases have been disposed off. However, on receipt of applications from individuals, Organisations & State Governments cases are reviewed where even adequate grounds exist. Pension once sanctioned is discontinued only if it is found later that it was sanctioned on mistaken grounds/ false information.

(c) The recommendations of the State Government are generally accepted except where on scrutiny it is found that these recommendations are not in accordance with the provisions of the Swantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980.

Decision on Scindia Steam Navigation Company

2331. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the future working plan of Scindia Steam Navigation Company which was taken over by Government Receiver and the Board appointed by them last year, is under the consideration of the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, whether a decision has since been taken in the matter and if not what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that vessels of this Company remain unutilised due to uncertainty of Company's future;

(d) what is the amount of loss Government are incurring due to non-utilisation of vessels of the Company; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that due to delay in taking a decision on company's future, many workers are without any work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Various options in respect of Scindia Steam Navigation Company have been considered by Government and a decision has been taken to run the company through its Board of Directors.

(c) to (e) Vessels belonging to the Scindia Steam Navigation Company had stopped plying because of arrests by creditors and also because of stranding without bunkers etc. The Company has been trying to settle with its creditors both abroad and within the country. It has also tried to rationalise its staff strength by providing a voluntary retirement scheme for its employees. With the settlement of these issues and the impovement in freight rates the company is expected to be able to ply its vessels again. Government has been assisting the company with short-term loans to enable it to meet its immediate requirements.